

U. S. Warship Order Breaks World Record

Contracts Are Awarded for Four Battle and Six Scout Cruisers

Hulls and Engines To Cost \$112,000,000

Builders of Larger Ships Cut Profits—Navy to Construct One Big Vessel

Washington, March 10.—Contracts for what is believed to be the largest order for fighting craft ever given by any nation were placed today by the Navy Department. Private builders undertook to turn out four battle-cruisers and six scout cruisers, costing nearly \$112,000,000 for hulls and machinery alone, and pledged themselves to keep 70 per cent of their working forces on navy construction.

In response to an appeal to their patriotism by Secretary Daniels, the shipbuilders have agreed to accept 10 per cent net profit on the battle-cruisers, whose cost will represent about \$75,000,000 of the total sum included in today's contracts. A fifth battle-cruiser will be built at the Philadelphia navy yard so as not to strain the limit of facilities of private establishments.

The builders are getting as high as 10 per cent profit on merchant work, with more contracts in sight than they can accept. They have placed their facilities at the disposal of the government, making it unnecessary for the President to consider employing authority to commandeer plants.

All Cruisers New Type. Both classes of cruisers ordered today are new types to naval architecture, and are designed for a speed of thirty knots an hour. The scouts were awarded on bids submitted yesterday, prices ranging from \$5,500,000 to \$5,996,000 and stipulated time of delivery from thirty to thirty-two months. These figures can be no guide to the actual cost or time, however, as under the emergency clause of the naval appropriation bill construction will be hastened to the point the government footing the bill traditional cost.

The battle-cruisers, the fixed limit of cost of which is \$19,000,000 per ship, exclusive of speeding up expense, were paid as follows: Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, two ships; Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation, one ship; New York Shipbuilding Company, one ship.

With the exception of the New York company, each private builder will have to install new ways and machinery for the huge craft. An appropriation of \$6,000,000 has been ordered expended to equip the Philadelphia yard for capital ship building.

Four of the scout cruisers will be built on the Pacific Coast—two by the Seattle Construction Company and two by the Union Iron Works, at San Francisco. The other two will be built by William Cramp & Sons, Philadelphia. Cramp and the Union Iron Works may be called upon also to build a number of destroyers. In addition to fifteen destroyers authorized by the last naval appropriation bill the department is planning to construct many craft of this type under the small boat emergency fund.

Dreadnaughts To Be Built. Of the authorized building programme there remain to be contracted for three dreadnaughts, thirty-eight submarines, the fifteen destroyers and several auxiliary vessels. Bids will be opened early in April on these craft, and at the same time orders will be placed for more than one hundred coast patrol boats.

The ultimate cost to the government of the ships ordered today will exceed by many millions the figures given for hull and machinery. It will cost \$465,000 per ship to arm and equip the scouts and \$535,510 additional for each battle-cruiser.

The shipbuilders having made financial sacrifices to meet the government's needs, Secretary Daniels is seeking similar agreements with the contractors who supply material and equipment to go in the ships. He hopes to secure an agreement for a flat rate of profit.

The chief characteristics of the scout cruisers are as follows: Displacement, 1,100 tons; speed, 35 knots; length, 320 feet; beam, 55 feet; armament, eight 6-inch guns, four torpedo tubes and two anti-aircraft guns; complement, 100.

The battle-cruisers will have the following main characteristics: Displacement, 34,800 tons; speed, 35 knots; length, 510 feet; beam, 91 feet; armament, ten 14-inch guns, eight torpedo tubes, eighteen 5-inch guns, four 3-inch anti-aircraft guns and other guns of lesser caliber.

A new feature of both classes of vessels will be their complete equipment for carrying, launching and operating the largest size hydroplane.

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Republicans Solidly Oppose Appointment, but Senate Votes Favorably

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The vote on confirmation was 37 to 26. Republicans lining up solidly against Dr. Grayson, but no Democrats supporting them.

Republican Senators who opposed the confirmation declared that they had no personal objection to Grayson, but contended he was not entitled to be jumped over 127 other officers.

City Asks Protection Of Croton Watershed

[From a Staff Correspondent of The Tribune.] Albany, May 15.—New York City made an impressive demand on the Legislature today through official representatives, the Merchants' Association, life insurance companies and other organizations, for the passage of the Wegner-Block bill, providing for the protection of the Croton watershed from pollution by the permanent abandonment of state institutions situated on it and the disposal of the property for other purposes.

Senator George A. Slater and other members from Westchester objected to the bill, urging a commission to solve the problem.

Julius Henry Cohen, in charge of the presentation for the bill, asserted that the evidence was overwhelming to show the menace to New York City's water supply from sewage from the Mohawk State Hospital site and Yorktown Training School for Boys. The only sensible course for the city's safety, he said, was to have the buildings torn down.

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Calder and Knox Favor Secrecy in Colombia Debate

Pennsylvania Senator Has Fling at Wilson While Aiding Democrats

For Payment as Right

Doesn't Believe U. S. Has Reached Level Where It Should Buy Friendship

[From The Tribune Bureau.] Washington, March 10.—Senator Calder, of New York, was the only Republican, except Senator Knox, who is openly in favor of the ratification of the Colombian treaty, to vote with the Democrats today in favor of secret sessions for its discussion.

A motion by Senator Borah, of Idaho, in favor of opening the doors was supported by twenty-four Senators, the largest vote ever registered against secret sessions. But the Democrats, with the aid of Calder and Knox, mustered thirty-six votes against it, so discussion proceeded in executive session.

Chairman Stone of the Foreign Relations Committee, in charge of the treaty, declined a proffer from the Republican side, made to Senator Simmons during his absence from the

chamber, which would provide a vote at noon Saturday. His motive was understood by his colleagues, unless it were a feeling of resentment at negotiations being conducted over his head.

The minority report, against the treaty, and the separate views of Senator Knox, favoring the ratification of the treaty, were made public today.

Mr. Knox's reasons for desiring ratification are summed up in the following paragraph from his opinion:

"The treaty differs in degree or character of consideration and other details, but not in principle, from two sets of contemplated treaties which, if consummated, would have embodied the policies of the last two Republican administrations (in both of the Cabinets of which Mr. Knox served). It will end a grievance, which, whether fancied or real, has grown so traditional as to be unsuspicious of obliteration in any other way."

Mr. Knox, however, takes a fling at President Wilson for using the present break in relations with Germany as the impelling reason for placing Colombia so as to prevent German operations from that quarter against the canal.

He said: "Only the idea of the power of the United States and of the prestige it ought to have, as well as my conception of Pan-American relations, impel me to remark that I do not consider that the exceedingly grave crisis impending is seriously germane or appropriately to be invoked in connection with the ratification of a treaty with Colombia."

The wisdom of that action rests upon broader and sounder grounds. The inception of the purpose to compose the differences with Colombia preceded the present world crisis many years.

"To safeguard our interests today there remain neglected many and obvious measures of preparedness. If this treaty represented a sort of barter for friendship, that would be most questionable in itself. An implication that the power which stands for the Monroe Doctrine should thus seek safety in friendship, while at the same time neglecting to arm for its defense and the maintenance of its rights, would connote a level to which I trust the United States will never sink."

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Government Agents Reveal New Phase of German Conspiracy

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This phase of the Teuton conspiracy, the ramifications of which become more astounding daily, shows the touch of a master hand. Much of the work was done from inside the plants. For

months the employers have been dropping suspected workmen from the pay-rolls. Some of these men have vanished. Others have been shadowed by Secret Service men, and are said to have led the authorities to the doors of men higher up.

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